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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,232	07/31/2001	William J. Ossmann	US010394	5552
24737	7590	09/19/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			BUDD, MARK OSBORNE	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2834	

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/919,232	OSSMANN, WILLIAM J.
	Examiner Mark Budd	Art Unit 2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3,5-8,12,18-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3,5-8,12,18-20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

Claim1,3,5-8,12,18-20 and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are either indefinite, misdescriptive or based on an inadequate disclosure in citing "having a shape that includes a tissue-engagement surface and curved surfaces adjacent to the tissue-engagement surface". Viewing, for example, applicants figures 7 and 8, it appears that there is only a single curved surface that engages the media (tissue)). Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art cannot determine the proper metes and bounds of these claims.

Claims1,3,5-8,12,18-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC103 as on patentable over Iinuma in view of Shimazaki for the specific reasons set forth in the previous office action (5-10-05).

Applicant makes two mutually exclusive arguments in regard to the above rejections. Applicant argues that there is no "showing, suggestion, incentive or motivation in either reference for the combination as applied...". The examiner notes that it has long been established that motivation need not be explicit within the applied references, it is only necessary to show that the combination would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art. Motivation, was explicitly stated in the previous rejection, and applicant has not refuted that motivation.

Applicants second argument relates to the references failing to show specific claimed elements such as for example a tissue-engagement surface shaped to provide in a optimum contact with the body to be imaged. It is noted that such descriptions as "tissue-engagement", and "optimum contact" and "where in the curved surfaces...geometry-limited access points of the body to be imaged" are merely statements of desired function and provides no specific structure that defines from the reference structures.

Courts have found that claims directed to apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. In reDanly, 263 F.2d 844, 847. "'Apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does'" Hewlett-Packard v. Bausch & lomb 909 F.2d 1464, 1469. Regarding the last paragraph of claim 1, a two-dimensional delay profile that compensates for the presence or absence of a lens, longitude, latitude in depth of focus o scanis inherent in the output processing taught by Shimazaki or Iinuma. It is noted that the claims to not require each and every piezoelectric element to have its own individualized signal.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Budd whose telephone number is 571-272-2019. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg, can be reached on 571-272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Budd Primary Examiner Art
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